

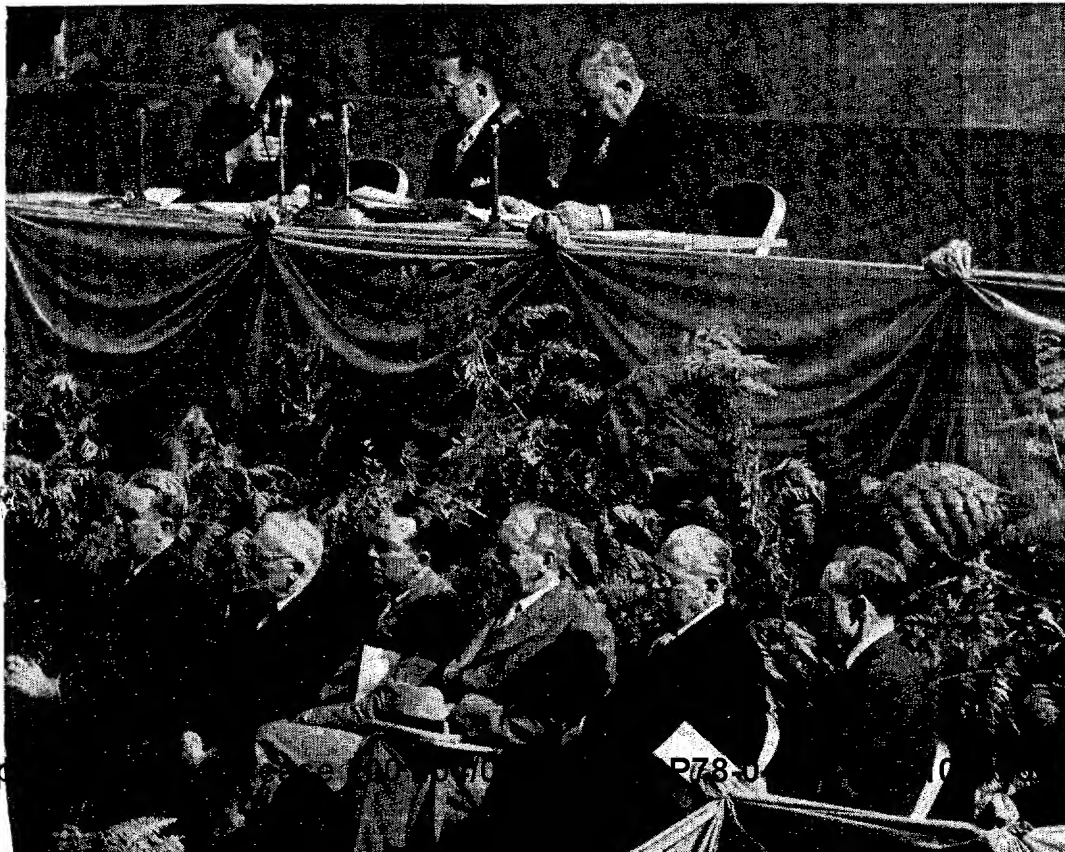
Approved For Release 2001/04/04 : CIA-RDP78-04506A000100020030-2



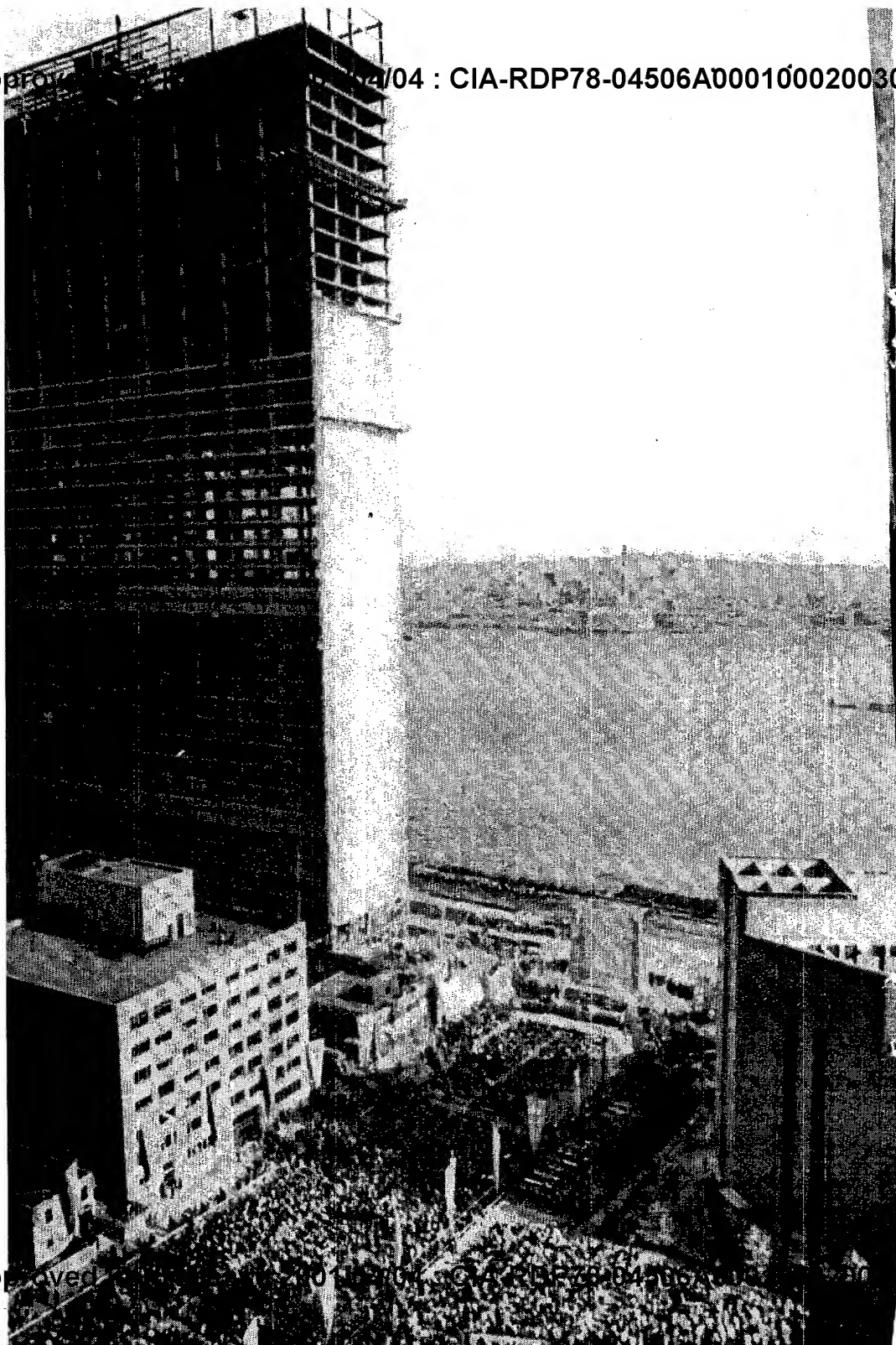
AN ACT OF FAITH

A report of the Cornerstone Ceremony
of the permanent headquarters of the United Nations

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, UNITED NATIONS



Approved For Release 2001/04/04 : CIA-RDP78-04506A000100020030-2



Approved For Release 2001/04/04 : CIA-RDP78-04506A000100020030-2

"AN ACT OF FAITH"

Ceremony at Laying of Cornerstone

The cornerstone of the United Nations Permanent Headquarters was laid on October 24, United Nations Day, in a ceremony which brought into sharp focus both the progress of the past four years and the magnitude of the task ahead.

The function took place at an open air plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the site of the Headquarters building at 42nd Street and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive in New York City.

There the Delegations of the 59 Member Nations, seated in the familiar order obtaining at Flushing Meadows, heard the President of the United States of America call the laying of this cornerstone "an act of faith—our unshakeable faith that the United Nations will succeed in accomplishing the great tasks for which it was created." (*The complete text of President Truman's speech appears on page 13*).

The delegates sat below and facing a rostrum backed by the blue and white of a gigantic United Nations flag. Upon that rostrum sat the President of the Assembly, General Carlos P. Romulo of the Philippines, flanked by the Secretary-General, Mr. Trygve Lie, and his Executive Assistant, Mr. Andrew W. Cordier. Just beneath them was the dais for the speakers—President Harry S. Truman, Ambassador Warren R. Austin, Chairman of the United Na-

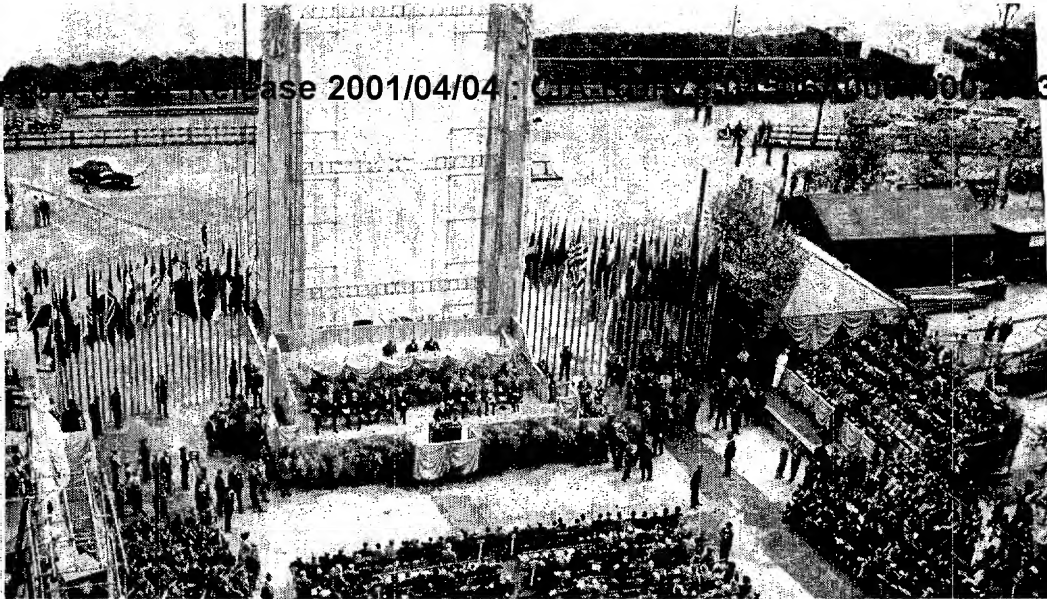
tions Headquarters Advisory Committee and Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Mayor William O'Dwyer, who spoke for the City of New York, and Governor Thomas E. Dewey, of New York State.

Also on the dais with the speakers were John D. Rockefeller, 3rd, representing John D. Rockefeller, Jr., whose generosity made it possible to acquire the site, and the seven Vice-Presidents of the Assembly—the heads of the Delegations of Brazil, China, France, Pakistan, Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, United Kingdom and United States.

Stretching back from the Assembly area, up the gentle slope towards First Avenue and in the adjacent playground, were massed the seats of the spectators—guests of the delegates, officials and guests of the City of New York, members of the United Nations Secretariat and the public. In all, seating accommodation was provided for 10,000, with 500 seats reserved—at the special request of the Secretary-General—for workers engaged in the construction of the great building which towered, impressive even in its present stage, above the scene.

The ceremony had been scheduled to start at noon and at 12:07 pm General Romulo called the plenary meeting of the Assembly to order.

America, said General Romulo,



The General Assembly held its first open air meeting on United Nations Day, Oct. 24, 1949, for a ceremony at which cornerstone of Permanent Headquarters Building was laid.

had given much to the United Nations. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "the greatest American of our time," was one of its founding fathers and his concept of the Four Freedoms had "defined, in terms of mankind's need for indivisible unity, the basic aspirations now embodied in the Charter of the United Nations." (For full text of speech, see page 6).

General Romulo recalled that the United Nations from the outset had chosen the United States as its permanent home and he traced, step by step, the path which had led to the cornerstone laying ceremony—the temporary home at Hunter College, the offers of other American cities, the generosity of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., a generosity matched by that of the City of New York, which had provided the permanent site.

"Upon recommendation of President Truman," said General Romulo, "the United States Congress, in one of the most heartening evidences

of its bipartisan policy in support of the United Nations, granted a loan without interest for the construction of the buildings. The first allocation of \$25,000,000 from that loan was made available by the Congress in 1948 after agreement between President Truman and Governor Dewey. Thus did the United States Government, by the symbolic act of giving the United Nations a permanent home on American soil, yield a bit of its sovereignty to the world organization.

"This ground, a part of America, now belongs to the world. It is dedicated ground. Upon it will rest the visible structure of the United Nations, the instrument by which humanity hopes to attain peace and the blessings of peace."

At the conclusion of his opening address, General Romulo introduced Ambassador Austin, who said that the many conferences and consultations in which he had participated

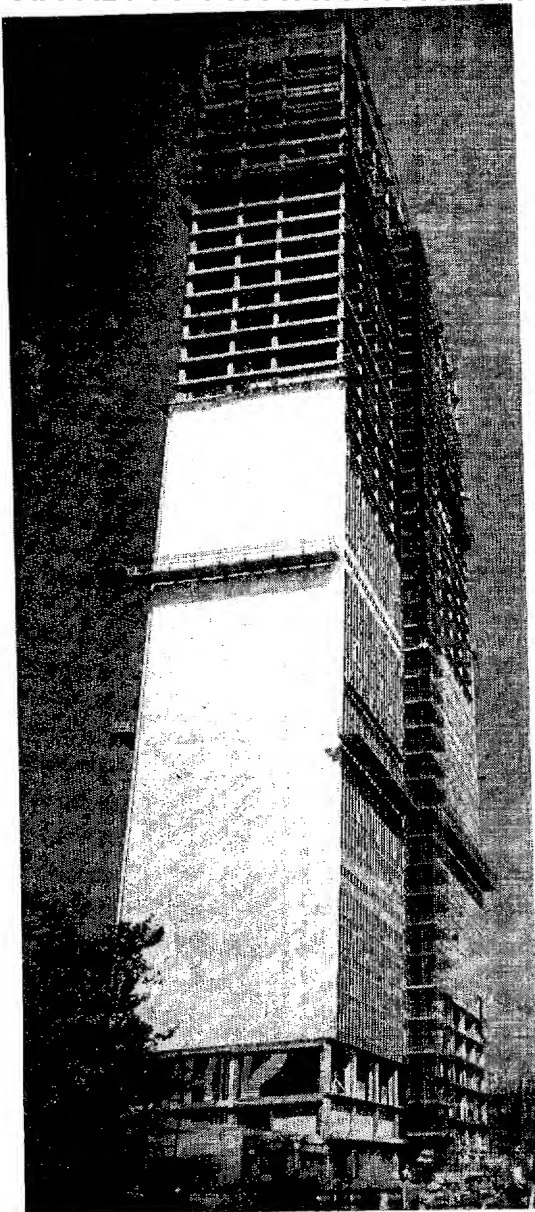
as Chairman of the Headquarters Advisory Committee now came to fruition. There were two points, he said, that might add to an understanding of the achievement marked by the cornerstone ceremony: "First, that men and women of goodwill have demonstrated their interest in the United Nations by very substantial acts of generosity. Second, that this home-building enterprise has been carried out by remarkable unanimity among the Members of the United Nations." (*Full text on page 8*).

The "magnificent benevolence" of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., had decided the "emotional controversy" over general location and specified the site for the headquarters. And Mayor O'Dwyer, the Citizens Committee and the officials of the City of New York, acting "promptly, generously and with vision," had provided \$20,000,000 to build the approaches and a \$2,000,000 grant to start the work. They had in every way facilitated the headquarters agreement, even to the extent of waiving taxes.

"A board of design composed of 12 celebrated architects from 12 countries representing all the regions of the earth commenced meetings in March, 1947," said Ambassador Austin, and "from some 50 basic schemes and about 100 secondary designs they reached unanimous agreement on the blueprints which are now taking form in the buildings under construction here.

"This demonstration by these architects of many countries was a milestone on the road to accord. No less than statesmen, they had strong opinions and vital differences to harmonize. They did it unanimously."

A similar unanimity, he said, had



The new Secretariat Building, its steelwork completed, and its marble and glass exterior rising rapidly, towers into the sky above the East River.

marked the Headquarters Advisory Committee and the General Assembly. And "having achieved unanimity on the plans for our United Nations home, we determinedly seek agreement on security and well-being for the members of the household.

"So these structures here are not merely buildings to house the workers in the cause of peace and world progress. They are an instrument for harmony. They are a symbol in steel, and marble and glass of unanimous effort and agreement."

Mayor O'Dwyer told the Assembly that "no event of greater importance has ever happened in the history of the City than its selection as the permanent United Nations home. (Complete text appears on page 10).

"We are not impatient with the

United Nations," he said, "because it has failed immediately to solve all the problems of the world. We know that progress is a slow process. We know that the chosen representatives of the nations must devote their hearts and minds to the task of bringing the human family together."

Governor Dewey expressed his pleasure at welcoming to the State of New York "not only the President of the United States but Delegates and Representatives from all the nations of the world who are taking part in the most important labor of all—preserving and building the peace. (Full text on page 12).

"It is important that we be here," he said, "because in this, which is now the greatest and most cosmopolitan city in the world, we find

President Truman bids farewell at end of ceremony. Left to right: General Romulo; President Truman; Mayor William O'Dwyer; U. S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson; Secretary-General Lie; and Warren Austin, U. S. Delegate to the United Nations (Wide World).



the fairest meeting-ground for all the associations, the views and aspirations of all the peoples of the world."

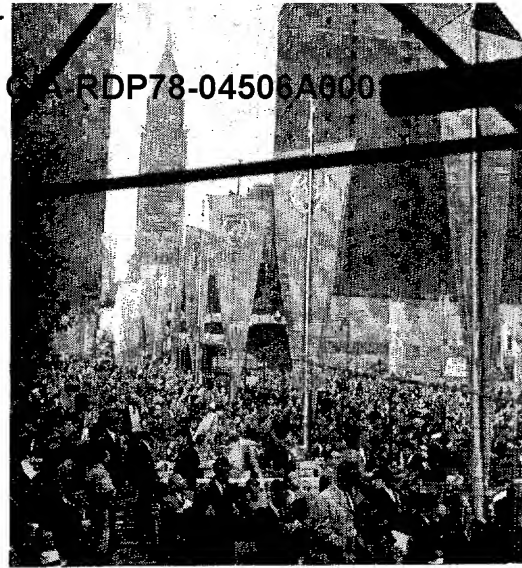
The people of every nation, declared the Governor, "owe the delegates who have labored here their gratitude in bountiful measure for peace to the extent they now enjoy it.

"There are many weary miles and millions of weary hours of drudgery ahead," he concluded, "But from a fragile beginning through perilous tasks the United Nations has weathered every storm. It is stronger today than ever before. It is my hope that these mighty buildings being here erected may symbolize the growing might of the United Nations in the best cause of all, peace and goodwill on earth."

The next speaker was the President of the United States, whose advent to the speakers' dais was heralded by the music of the massed bands playing, "Hail to the Chief," traditional musical salute to an American Chief Executive. Mr. Truman spoke of the buildings of the Permanent Headquarters as "the most important buildings in the world," the center of man's hope for peace and a better life. (*See complete text on page 13*).

At the conclusion of President Truman's address the Secretary-General, escorted by Mr. Wallace K. Harrison, Director of Planning, left the rostrum and mounted a ramp to where, some 25 feet above the present street level on what will be the south side of the permanent buildings, a two-ton cornerstone of New Hampshire granite hung, suspended from a crane.

Dedicating the cornerstone, Mr. Lie deposited in a metal container a copy of the original Charter of the United Nations as signed at San Francisco exactly four years before.



View of public at ceremony

With it he placed a true copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a copy of the program for the ceremony.

"May the United Nations Charter be the foundation for as strong and true a structure of world peace as the building that rises high above us here today," he said, giving the signal to lower the cornerstone into place.

The Secretary-General then gave thanks to all whose devotion to the United Nations had made it possible to proceed so far with the permanent Headquarters, expressing special gratitude to President Truman for all that the United States, as host country, had done for the United Nations. Every day must be a United Nations Day, he said, until the peace of the world is made secure. (*The full text of the Secretary-General's address appears on page 19*).

Accompanied by Mr. Harrison, the Secretary-General then returned to the rostrum and the President of the Assembly declared the 237th plenary meeting of the General Assembly adjourned at 1:05 PM.



"The House of Peace"

—by General Carlos P. Romulo,
President of the General Assembly

Here is the full text of the address of General Carlos P. Romulo, President of the United Nations General Assembly:

America has given much to the United Nations.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the greatest American of our time, was one of the founding fathers of the United Nations. His concept of the Four Freedoms defined, in terms of mankind's need for indivisible unity, the basic human aspirations now embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

The United Nations, for its part, had from the outset chosen the United States of America as its permanent home. In December 1945 the United Nations Preparatory Commission recommended that the permanent headquarters should be located in the United States. On February 14, 1946 the General Assembly meeting in London voted to establish the interim headquarters in New York City and the permanent headquarters in a suitable site in Fairfield or in Westchester county.

In the meantime, the City of New York, under the able administration of Mayor William O'Dwyer, went to great trouble and expense to provide a temporary home for the United Nations, first in Hunter College and later in the New York City building in Flushing.

During the second part of the ses-

sion, which was held in New York in October 1946, the General Assembly re-opened the question of the choice of a site for its permanent home. The cities of New York, Philadelphia, Boston and San Francisco were considered. Finally, on December 10, 1946, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. made his generous offer of a donation with which the greater part of the permanent site was purchased. This generous act was matched by the City of New York which donated additional land and undertook the improvement of the area adjacent to the headquarters.

Upon the recommendation of President Truman, the United States Congress, in one of the most heartening evidences of its bipartisan policy in support of the United Nations, granted a loan without interest for the construction of the buildings. The first allocation of \$25,000,000 from that loan was made available by the Congress in 1948 after agreement between President Truman and Governor Thomas Dewey. Thus did the United States Government, by the symbolic act of giving the United Nations a permanent home on American soil, yield a bit of its sovereignty to the world organization.

This ground, a part of America, now belongs to the world. It is dedicated ground. Upon it will rest the visible structure of the United Na-

tions, the instrument by which humanity hopes to attain peace and the blessings of peace.

Two priceless documents — the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—are to be encased in the slab of granite that is to be the cornerstone of that visible structure. One could wish that other documents hardly less historic and universal in their appeal might receive the same reverential treatment. I refer, among others, to the resolutions of the General Assembly of 14 December 1946, 4 November 1948 and 19 November 1948, calling for the control of atomic energy and the prohibition of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, the resolution of 3 November 1947 condemning all forms of propaganda for a new war and encouraging the dissemination of information designed to give expression to the undoubted desire of all people for peace, and the resolution of 3 November 1948 appealing to the great Powers to renew their efforts to compose their differences and establish a lasting peace.

These solemn declarations, repeated each year since the birth of the United Nations, bespeak humanity's insatiable yearning for peace. I make them again today on behalf of all the plain and humble people of all lands, and pray that their voice may be heard before it is too late.

Stone and steel alone will not give permanence to the home of the United Nations. The edifice that shall rise on this site will stand as a symbol of man's hope for a better life in a better world only so long as the nations gathered under its roof shall work together in unity and understanding. Stronger than steel, more durable than granite, good will

is the real cornerstone of the United Nations.

We shall have failed in our supreme duty to mankind if we do not make the permanent home of the United Nations the House of Peace.

In 1861, a great President of this Republic, addressed a nation rent by civil war:

"We are not enemies, but friends —we must not be enemies. Though passions may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our natures."

Timely Significance

Lincoln's words bear a timely significance for us today. Truly, we must not be enemies, we cannot afford to be enemies. Out of the ancient wisdom of the East has come the saying: All men are brothers, members of the human family. There may have been a time when we could brush this aside as a naïve sentiment, an idle expression of idealism. But that time is no more. With the terrible weapons which human ingenuity has recently fashioned, war has become a luxury we can no longer afford, and peace a necessity we cannot do without.

The iron circle of war and peace is broken. Brotherhood is no longer an outmoded tenet of religion but the very price and condition of man's survival.

The United Nations is the last sacred temple for the rediscovery of human brotherhood. We must remain at peace with one another—or die.

"An Instrument for Harmony"

—by Warren R. Austin, Chairman
Headquarters Advisory Committee

Here is the complete text of the address by Ambassador Warren R. Austin, Chairman of the Headquarters Advisory Committee of the United Nations:

This occasion calls to mind many conferences and consultations in which I have participated as Chairman of the Headquarters Advisory Committee. Now all this effort comes to fruition. The home of the United Nations rises impressively on its East River site in New York.

There are two points that may add to an understanding of the achievement marked by the ceremony here today. First, that men and women of goodwill have demonstrated their interest in the United Nations by very substantial acts of generosity. Second, that this home-building enterprise has been carried out by remarkable unanimity among the Members of the United Nations.

It was difficult to arrive at agreement on the general location and the specific site for the headquarters of the world organization. We are grateful to Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. for his magnificent benevolence which decided this emotional controversy and acquired this site. His practical and generous idea was enthusiastically accepted.

Mayor O'Dwyer, the members of the Citizens Committee, and the officials of the City of New York have acted promptly, generously, and with

vision to support the United Nations home-building enterprise. They provided twenty million dollars to build the approaches and made a two million dollar grant to start the work. In every way they facilitated the Headquarters Agreement, even to the extent of waiving taxes on this valuable property.

Next, we faced the infinitely difficult problem of obtaining plans for the buildings. A Board of Design composed of twelve celebrated architects from twelve countries, representative of all the regions of the earth, commenced meetings in March of 1947. From some fifty basic schemes and about one hundred secondary designs, they reached unanimous agreement on the blueprints which are now taking form in the buildings under construction here.

This demonstration by these architects of many countries was a milestone on the road to accord. No less than statesmen, they had strong opinions and vital differences to harmonize. They did it unanimously.

They presented us a unique house of the nations having more windowed surface than any other building in this city. While its facades on the north and south are of marble, both the east and west sides are open to the light, a happy symbolism of the hopes of peace-loving people everywhere.

Not only did the architects reach unanimous agreement, but the members of our Headquarters Advisory Committee and the General Assembly decided every important question by unanimous agreement. Having achieved that unanimity on the plans for our United Nations home, we determinedly seek agreement on security and well-being for the members of the household.

So, these structures here are not merely buildings to house the workers in the cause of peace and world

progress. They are an instrument for harmony. They are a symbol in steel and marble and glass of unanimous effort and agreement.

As we dedicate the cornerstone on this anniversary, we re-dedicate ourselves to the high purposes for which these buildings are erected. We realize that in order to achieve these purposes, men of goodwill must continue to demonstrate their confidence, and continue to harmonize their differing views in the search for universal accord.

Internationally famous architects, headed by Wallace K. Harrison (second from right) drew up the plans for the Permanent Headquarters building of the United Nations.



Mankind's Basic Unity

—by William O'Dwyer, Mayor
of the City of New York

Here is the full text of the address by Mayor William O'Dwyer of the City of New York:

I am proud to be the Mayor of the City of New York at a time when a great building is being dedicated to a great purpose.

We of New York City worked hard to induce the United Nations to select this city as its headquarters.

No event of greater importance has ever happened in the history of our city than its selection as the permanent home.

This great city of 8 million people is the product of the brain and brawn of men and women from every corner of the earth, of every race and creed, of every color and every national origin, of every alien culture, habit and prejudice.

Their united effort produced no Tower of Babel, but this city, a monument to the success of man's ability to get along with his fellow-man.

More Vital

In the long run, as we have proved, the basic unity of human beings, the basic likeness of human beings, is more vital, more important than these differences.

Of course, we have not yet wiped out all injustices. The process is difficult. But we are making headway to better standards of living and a better way of life.

When we look back into history,

we see civilization springing up where men are brought together into association with each other, and we see it disappearing as this united effort is broken up.

Two terrible World Wars have been fought in our own generation. The futility of war as a solution of anything is obvious.

We are beginning to realize that progress and improvement in international relations becomes possible when representatives meet in peaceful association; the closer the association, the greater the possibilities of improvement.

To Abolish War

If wars are to be forever abolished, the men and women of this world must devote their hearts and minds to the task of bringing the family of nations together and settling, by discussion and calm consideration, the differences which warfare never solves.

The differences which exist among the various nations and races of the world have always been over-emphasized. They are more superficial than real.

The base upon which all nations rest and depend is the human being. He is common to all nations. His basic needs, ambitions, joys and hopes are the same the world over.

It is our sincerest hope that here, at United Nations Headquarters, this great truth will be demonstrated day



Among the visitors who attended the cornerstone-laying ceremony were chiefs of the six-nation Iroquois Indian Confederacy.

after day.

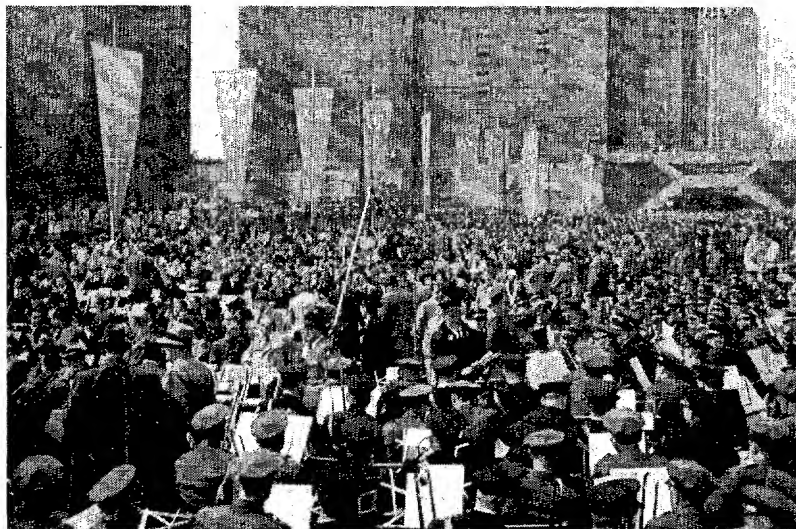
We are not impatient with the United Nations because it has failed immediately to solve all the problems of the world. We know that progress is a slow process. We know that the chosen representatives of the nations must devote their hearts and minds

to the task of bringing the human family together. *

May the efforts of the United Nations be crowned with success. May it grow into an enduring establishment for world peace and security.

Long live the United Nations!

With the help of God it will.



View of audience at open-air meeting of General Assembly at which cornerstone was laid.

"The Best Cause of All"

—by Thomas E. Dewey, Governor
of the State of New York

Here, in full, is the text of the address delivered by the Governor of New York State, Thomas E. Dewey:

It is a great pleasure to participate in this ceremony in which the laying of the cornerstone of the United Nations headquarters will be attended by the President of the United States. If tasks of this kind were his only duties I might even envy him his job. But, in truth, his responsibilities are such that no one should envy him and all should wish him very well indeed.

It is a great pleasure to welcome here to the State of New York not only the President of the United States but delegates and representatives from all the nations of the world who are taking part in the most important labor of all—preserving and building the peace.

It is important that we be here because in this, which is now the greatest and most cosmopolitan city in the world, we find the fairest meeting-ground for all the associations, the views and the aspirations of all the peoples of the world.

It has been my privilege to aid in procuring the extraordinary but necessary legislation of our State and, something more than a year ago, to assist in influencing the successful appropriation of the money to build this building. Everyone here has done his part in one way or another. But none of us would be here

today if it were not for the action of one great and good man whose generosity and quick action saved the United Nations for New York and New York for the United Nations. We are all profoundly indebted, as are the peoples of the world, for the very existence of this building here, to the generosity of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

At this cornerstone laying it seems appropriate that we should also pay tribute to the permanent staff, as well as to the delegates here for their labors in our common cause. It is not always pleasant to be uprooted from your home and transported thousands of miles to a strange city. It is often affirmatively unpleasant to sit through many hours of debate which often rises to abuse, to keep tempers in hand and to subordinate everything to the cause of justice and peace. It is fair to say that people of every nation owe to the delegates, who have labored here, their gratitude in bountiful measure for peace to the extent they now enjoy it.

There are many weary miles and millions of weary hours of drudgery ahead. But from a fragile beginning through perilous tests the United Nations has weathered every storm. It is stronger today than ever before. It is my hope that these mighty buildings being here erected may symbolize the growing might of the United Nations in the best cause of all, peace and good will on earth.

"The Centre of Man's Hope"

—by Harry S. Truman,
President of the United States

Here, in full, is the text of the address delivered at the cornerstone ceremonies in New York City by Mr. Harry S. Truman, President of the United States of America:

President Romulo, Mr. Lie, Distinguished Representatives and Fellow Guests:

We have come together today to lay the cornerstone of the Permanent Headquarters of the United Nations. These are the most important buildings in the world, for they are the centre of man's hope for peace and a better life. This is the place where the nations of the world will work together to make that hope a reality.

This occasion is a source of special pride to the people of the United States. We are deeply conscious of the honor of having the Permanent Headquarters of the United Nations in this country. At the same time, we know how important it is that the people of other nations should come to know at first hand the work of this world organization. We consider it appropriate, therefore, that the United Nations should hold meetings from time to time in other countries when that can be done. For the United Nations must draw its inspiration from the people of every land; it must be

truly representative of and responsive to the peoples of the world whom it was created to serve.

This ceremony marks a new stage in the growth of the United Nations. It is fitting that it should take place on United Nations Day, the fourth anniversary of the day the Charter entered into effect. During the four years of its existence, this organization has become a powerful force for promoting peace and friendship among the peoples of the world. The construction of this new headquarters is tangible proof of the

President Truman addressing General Assembly on Oct. 24, 1949. (Wide World).



steadfast faith of the Members in the vitality and strength of the organization, and of our determination that it shall become more and more effective in the years ahead.

The Charter embodies the hopes and ideals of men everywhere. Hopes and ideals are not static. They are dynamic, and they give life and vigor to the United Nations. We look forward to a continuing growth and evolution of the organization to meet the changing needs of the world's peoples. We hope that eventually every nation on earth will be a fully qualified and loyal member.

We who are close to the United Nations sometimes forget that it is more than the procedures, the councils and the debates, through which it operates. We tend to overlook the fact that the organization is the living embodiment of the principles of the Charter—the renunciation of aggression and the joint determination to build a better life.

But if we overlook this fact, we will fail to realize the strength and power of the United Nations. We will fail to understand the true nature of this new force that has been created in the affairs of our time.

The United Nations is essentially an expression of the moral nature of man's aspirations. The Charter clearly shows our determination that international problems must be settled on a basis acceptable to the conscience of mankind.

Because the United Nations is the dynamic expression of what all the peoples of the world desire, because it sets up a standard of right and justice for all nations, it is greater than any of its Members. The com-

pact that underlies the United Nations cannot be ignored—and it cannot be infringed or dissolved.

We in the United States, in the course of our own history, have learned what it means to set up an organization to give expression to the common desire for peace and unity. Our Constitution expressed the will of the people that there should be a United States. And through toil and struggle the people made their will prevail.

In the same way, I think, the Charter and the organization served by these buildings express the will of the people of the world that there shall be a United Nations.

This does not mean that all the Member countries are of one mind on all issues. The controversies which divide us go very deep. We should understand that these buildings are not a monument to the unanimous agreement of nations on all things. But they signify one new and important fact. They signify that the peoples of the world are of one mind in their determination to solve their common problems by working together.

Essential for Success

Our success in the United Nations will be measured not only in terms of our ability to meet and master political controversies. We have learned that political controversies grow out of social and economic problems. If the people of the world are to live together in peace, we must work together to establish the conditions that will provide a firm foundation for peace.

For this reason, our success will also be measured by the extent to which the rights of individual human

beings are realized. And it will be measured by the extent of our economic and social progress.

These fundamental facts are recognized both in the language of the Charter and in the activities in which the United Nations has been engaged during the past four years. The Charter plainly makes respect for human rights by nations a matter of international concern. The Member nations have learned from bitter experience that regard for human rights is indispensable to political, economic and social progress. They have learned that disregard of human rights is the beginning of tyranny and, too often, the beginning of war.

Respect for Human Rights

For these reasons, the United Nations has devoted much of its time to fostering respect for human rights. The General Assembly has adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on Genocide. Other important measures in this field are under study.

I am confident that this great work will go steadily forward. The preparation of a Covenant on Human Rights by the Human Rights Commission is a task with which the United States is deeply concerned. We believe strongly that the attainment of basic civil and political rights for men and women everywhere—without regard to race, language or religion—is essential to the peace we are seeking. We hope that the Covenant on Human Rights will contain effective provisions regarding freedom of information. The minds of men must be free from artificial and arbitrary restraints, in order that they may seek the truth

and apply their intelligence to the making of a better world.

The Challenge Of Poverty

Another field in which the United Nations is undertaking to build the foundations of a peaceful world is that of economic development. Today, at least half of mankind lives in dire poverty. Hundreds of millions of men, women and children lack adequate food, clothing and shelter. We cannot achieve permanent peace and prosperity in the world until the standard of living in under-developed areas is raised.

It is for this reason that I have urged the launching of a vigorous and concerted effort to apply modern technology and capital investment to improve the lot of these peoples. These areas need a large expansion of investment and trade. In order for this to take place, they also need the application of scientific knowledge and technical skills to their basic problems — producing more food, improving health and sanitation, making use of their natural resources and educating their people.

To meet these needs, the United Nations and its agencies are preparing a detailed program for technical assistance to under-developed areas.

The Economic and Social Council last summer defined the basic principles which should underlie this program. The General Assembly is now completing and perfecting the initial plans. The fact that the Economic Committee of the Assembly voted unanimously for the resolution on technical assistance shows that this is a common cause which commands united support. Although differences may arise over details of the program, I fervently hope that the

members of the United Nations will remain unanimous in their determination to raise the standards of living of the less fortunate members of the human family.

The United States intends to play its full part in this great enterprise. We are already carrying on a number of activities in this field. I shall urge the Congress, when it reconvenes in January, to give high priority to proposals which will make possible additional technical assistance and capital investment.

I should like to speak of one other problem which is of major concern to the United Nations. That is the control of atomic energy.

Control Of Atomic Energy

Ever since the first atomic weapon was developed, a major objective of United States policy has been a system of international control of atomic energy that would assure effective prohibition of atomic weapons, and at the same time would

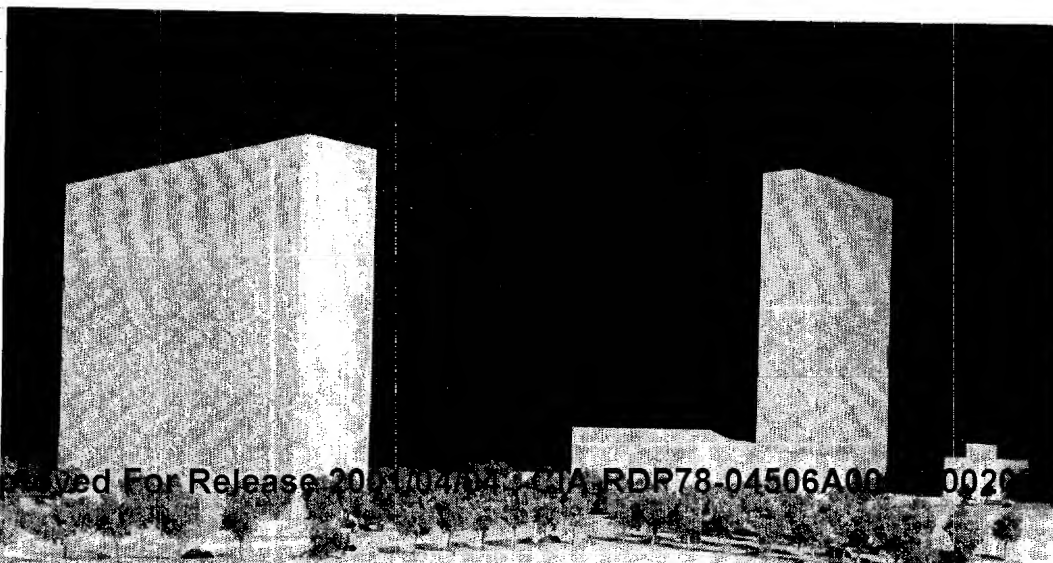
promote the peaceful use of atomic energy by all nations.

In November, 1945, Prime Minister Attlee of the United Kingdom, Prime Minister King of Canada and I agreed that the problem of international control of atomic energy should be referred to the United Nations. The establishment of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission was one of the first acts of the first session of the General Assembly.

That Commission worked for three years on the problem. It developed a plan of control which reflected valuable contributions by almost every country represented on the Commission. This plan of control was overwhelmingly approved by the General Assembly on November 4, 1948.

This is a good plan. It is a plan that can work and, more important, it is a plan that can be effective in accomplishing its purpose. It is the only plan so far developed that

Model of the "world" capital as visualized by the architects. Skyscraper on right is Secretariat Building. In front of it are General Assembly and Meeting Halls. On extreme right is the Library, and on extreme left is the Specialized Agencies Building.



would meet the technical requirements of control, that would make prohibition of atomic weapons effective, and at the same time promote the peaceful development of atomic energy on a co-operative basis.

We support this plan and will continue to support it unless and until a better and more effective plan is put forward. To assure that atomic energy will be devoted to man's welfare and not to his destruction is a continuing challenge to all nations and all peoples. The United States is now, and will remain, ready to do its full share in meeting this challenge.

Requisites

Respect for human rights, promotion of economic development, and a system for control of weapons are requisites to the kind of world we seek. We cannot solve these problems overnight, but we must keep everlastingly working at them in order to reach our goal.

No single nation can always have its own way, for these are human problems, and the solution of human problems is to be found in negotiation and mutual adjustment.

The challenge of the Twentieth Century is the challenge of human relations, and not of impersonal natural forces. The real dangers confronting us today have their origins in outmoded habits of thought, in the inertia of human nature, and in preoccupation with supposed na-

tional interests to the detriment of the common good.

As members of the United Nations, we are convinced that patience, the spirit of reasonableness, and hard work will solve the most stubborn political problems. We are convinced that individual rights and social and economic progress can be advanced through international co-operation.

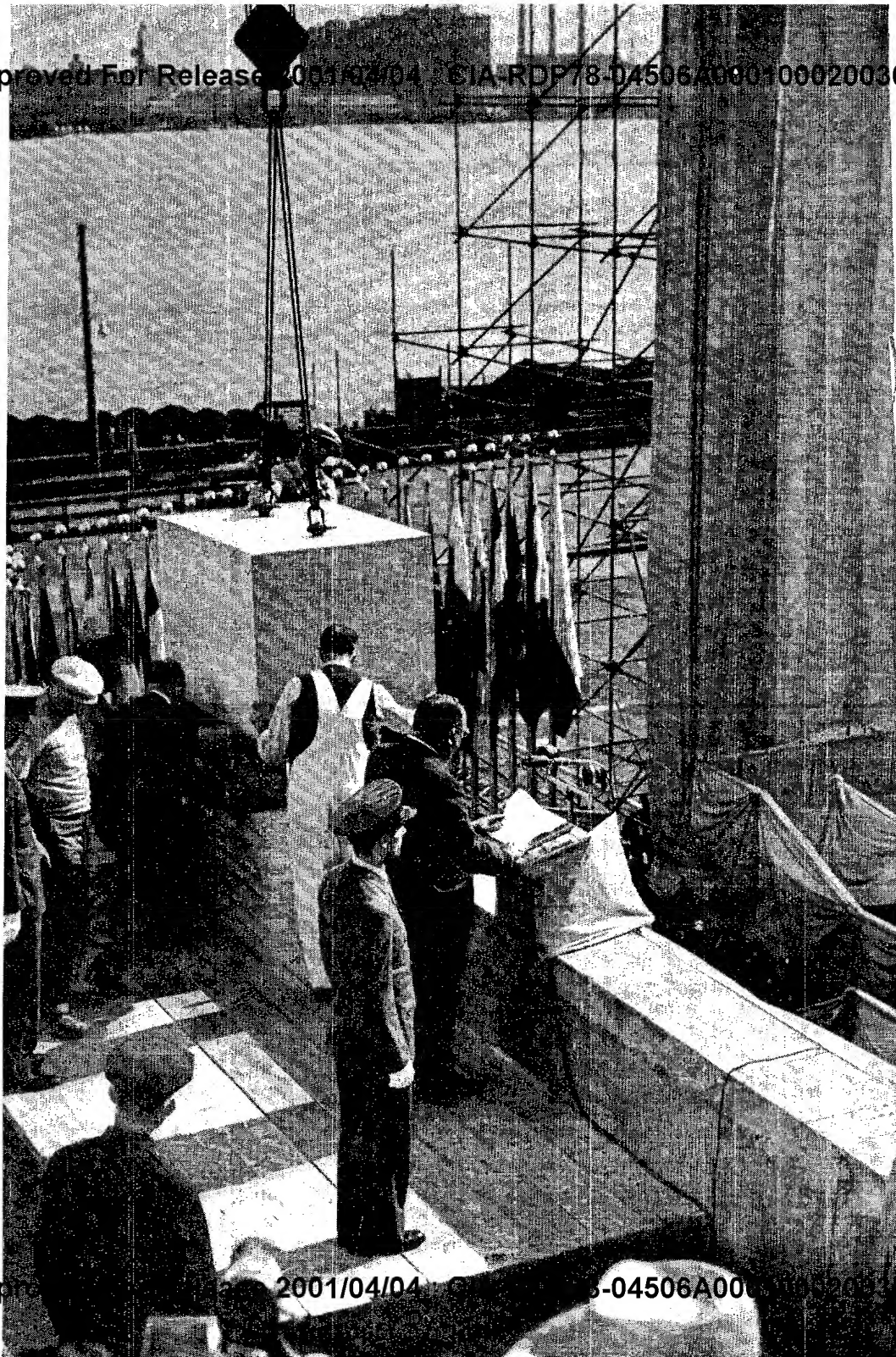
Our faith is in the betterment of human relations. Our vision is of a better world in which men and nations can live together, respecting one another's rights and co-operating in building a better life for all. Our efforts are made in the belief that men and nations can co-operate, that there are no international problems which men of good will cannot solve or adjust.

Mr. President, Mr. Lie, the laying of this cornerstone is an act of faith—our unshakeable faith that the United Nations will succeed in accomplishing the great tasks for which it was created.

But "faith without works is dead." We must make our devotion to the ideals of the Charter as strong as the steel in this building. We must pursue the objectives of the Charter with resolution as firm as the rock on which this building rests. We must conduct our affairs foursquare with the Charter, in terms as true as this cornerstone.

If we do these things, the United Nations will endure and will bring the blessings of peace and well-being to mankind.

Approved For Release 2001/03/04 : CIA-RDP78-04506A000100020030-2



Approved For Release 2001/04/04 : CIA-RDP78-04506A000100020030-2

"In the Name of the Peoples"

—by Trygve Lie, Secretary-
General of the United Nations

Here is the complete text of the address delivered by Mr. Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the laying of the cornerstone of the Permanent Headquarters.

It is with a profound sense of the historic significance of this occasion that I proceed to dedicate the cornerstone of the Permanent Headquarters of the United Nations.

The Charter of the United Nations begins, as you know, with the words "We, the Peoples of the United Nations." In the name of the peoples of the United Nations I now place for deposit in the cornerstone, to be preserved for all time, an exact copy of the original Charter signed at San Francisco. May the United Nations Charter be the foundation for as strong and true a structure of world peace as the building that rises high above us here today.

Standard for Governments

With the Charter of the United Nations I also place for deposit in the cornerstone a true copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948. This Declaration sets a standard for governments to which men and women of every race, language, color and belief can appeal whenever their rights are violated. It is a standard by which they can rally the support of the opinion of mankind for the fuller

realization of the rights that are here declared.

Finally, I place also in the cornerstone a copy of the program of this ceremony of dedication.

Mr. President, the cornerstone will now be lowered into place. The point at which it will now rest marks the south side of the Permanent Headquarters buildings when they are completed.

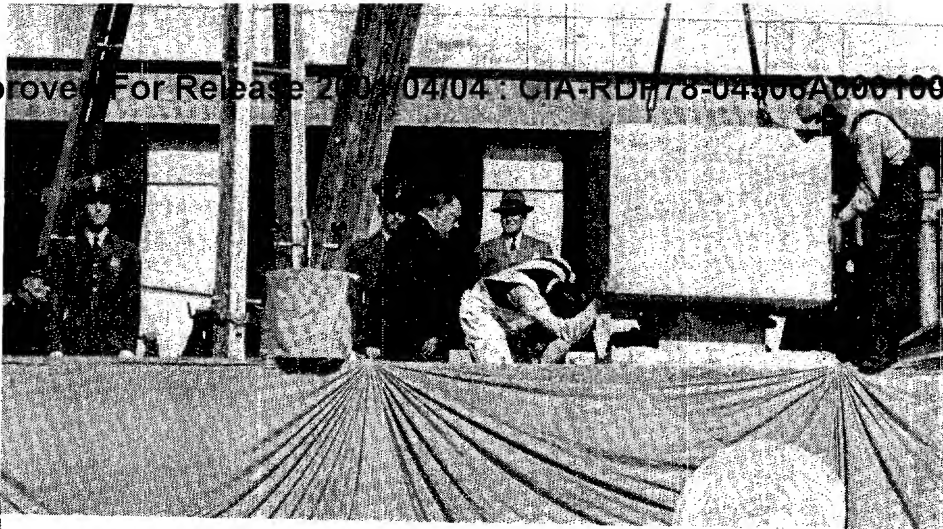
We have been able to proceed so far as this in the building of the Permanent Headquarters only because of the devotion to the United Nations of thousands of men and women in every walk of life.

There are so many people I have it in my heart to thank! I cannot name them all.

Beside me is Wallace Harrison, the Director of Planning, whose genius is responsible for so much. Over there are the workers who were swarming around the girders, the marble and the glass of this building only an hour ago and who will return to their uncompleted task when this ceremony ends.

There are many, many others here—and some who are not here—the architects and engineers and consultants; the other members of our Headquarters Staff and the Secretariat; the contractors; the city officials, Mr. Rockefeller, and, of course, Ambassador Austin and the members of the Headquarters Advisory Committee, Mayor O'Dwyer and Governor Dewey.

To President Truman I wish to



The cornerstone being dedicated by Secretary-General Lie. Deposited in the stone were a copy of the United Nations Charter and a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

express the gratitude of the United Nations Secretariat for many things that the United States, as the host country, and he, as its President, have done for the United Nations.

Since we came here to New York in 1946, he has really been the champion of the United Nations and his name, together with those of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Cordell Hull, will always be connected with the United Nations. And this building and the others to come are closer to his name than to any other person in the world.

We are grateful for the strong words of support for the United Nations that he and the other speakers have brought to us on this United Nations Day.

The world needs words of inspiration and of faith in the United Nations by the statesmen of the Great Powers and the other Member Nations. Such words are not meaningless. They count for much. Throughout history they have rallied humanity to great causes.

The world needs acts, as well as words, acts of statesmanship and

courage by the Member Governments in support of the United Nations.

I believe profoundly that only the success of the United Nations can prevent a third world war and achieve lasting peace.

The United Nations has not yet succeeded, nor has it failed. It is an unfinished structure. Many years will be needed to complete it.

The United Nations will succeed if the peoples of the world, acting through their governments, insist upon unwavering support for the United Nations Charter, both in acts and in words, and upon using the machinery of the United Nations to its full capacity, not only part of the time, but all the time.

We shall have peace in proportion to the amount of hard work and strong faith the peoples of the world give to making the United Nations work.

Mr. President, it should be our purpose—it must be our duty—to make every day in the year a United Nations Day until the peace of the world is made secure.

Search for a permanent United Nations home began with the earliest London meetings of the Preparatory Commission. While the Commission debated suggestions and offers, the United States Congress on 11 December, 1945, unanimously invited the organization to establish its headquarters in that country.

In February, 1946, the General Assembly voted to establish interim headquarters in New York City and Permanent Headquarters in the nearby suburban region. Later that year the question was re-opened and a sub-committee of the Permanent Headquarters Committee inspected several sites in the United States including New York, Philadelphia, Boston and San Francisco.

During the General Assembly's first New York session, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., offered \$8,500,000 to purchase midtown property on the East River. Simultaneously the City of New York offered to acquire and give other properties in the zone.

On December 14, 1946, the General Assembly voted to accept the offer and establish the Permanent Headquarters on land extending from

42nd Street to 48th Street, between First Avenue and the East River.

The Secretary-General established a Headquarters Planning Office and the architectural design and site development plans were prepared, incorporating a program to improve city streets and adjacent areas presented by the City. These were unanimously approved by the General Assembly November 20, 1947 and the Secretary-General authorized to negotiate an interest-free loan agreement with the United States Government for \$65,000,000 to finance the project.

In 1948, demolition on the site was completed, construction plans made, the loan agreement approved by the United States Congress and signed by the President of the United States.

By year's end, excavation was under way and on October 5, 1949, the United Nations flag was raised atop the finished steel framework of the Secretariat Building.

Work on the General Assembly auditorium, council chambers, meeting halls and garages will soon be started and it is expected these major units will be ready in 1951.

Approved For Release 2001/04/04 : CIA-RDP78-04506A000100010000-2

